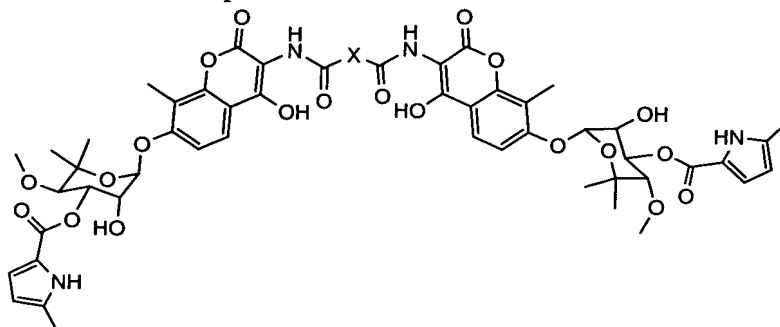


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula I:



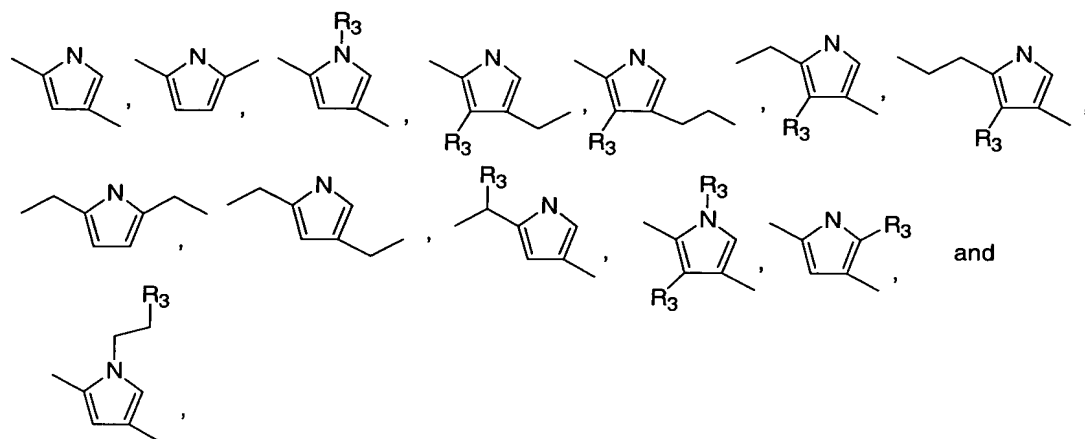
I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,
wherein X is a linking group containing from about 1 to about 54 atoms that connects
the two halves of the molecule.

2. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein X is selected
from the group consisting of straight, branched and cyclic alkyl, aryl, diaryl,
heteroaryl, said alkyl, aryl, diaryl and heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups
of C₁-6 alkyl or NH₂, alkyl with 1-3 heteroatoms in the chain, and a combination of
alkyl, aryl and/or heteroaryl substituents.

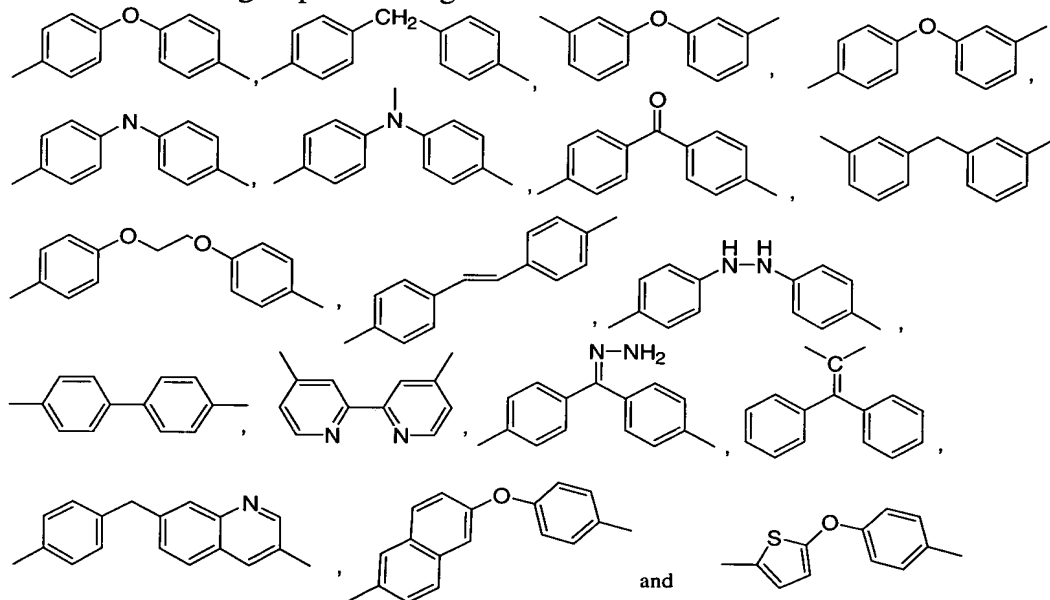
3. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein X is selected
from the group consisting of pyrrole, pyridine, furan, indole, benzofuran,
dibenzofuran, thiophene, straight chain alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, diaryl and
combinations thereof.

4. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the pyrrolyl
moiety is selected from the group consisting of

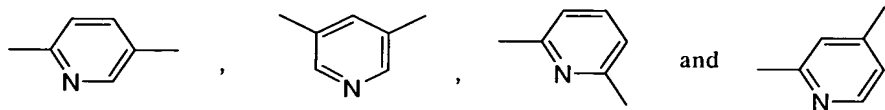


wherein R_3 is H or CH_3 .

5. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the diaryl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

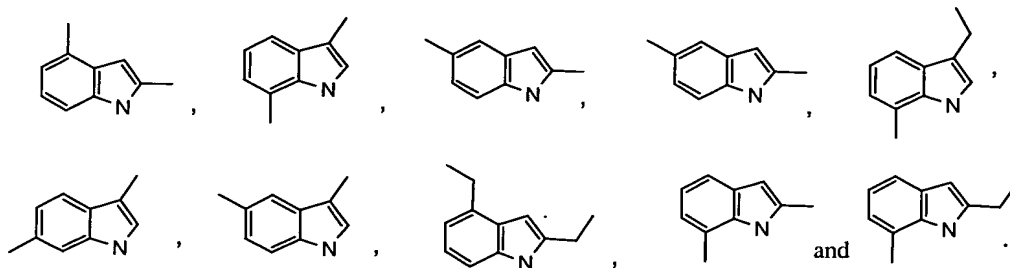


6. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the pyridinyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

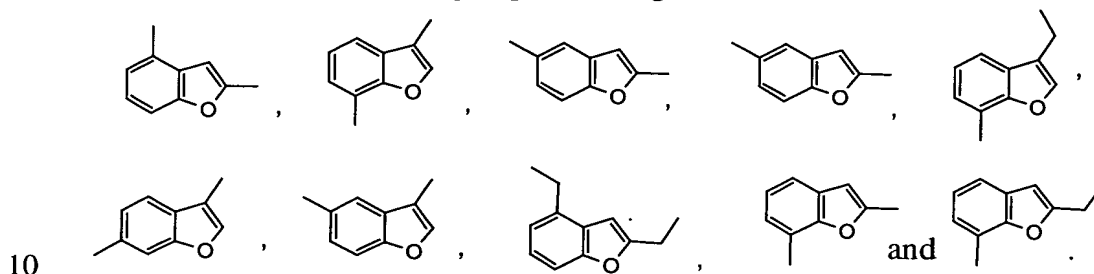


7. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein X is a straight chain alkyl moiety contains between one and eighteen carbons.

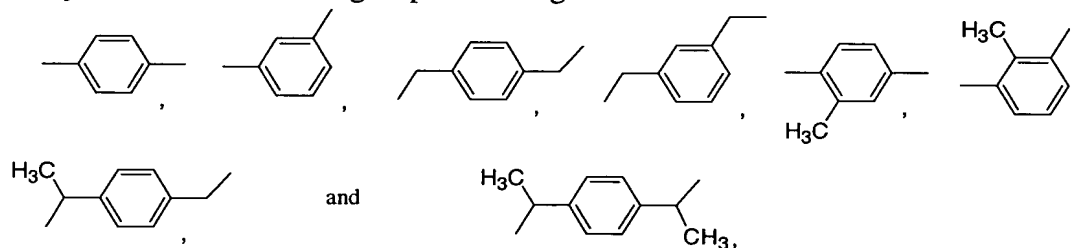
5 8. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the indolyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



9. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the benzofuranyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

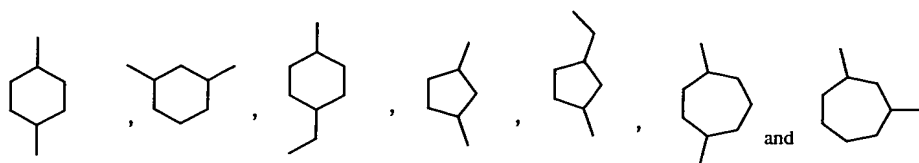


10. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the phenyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

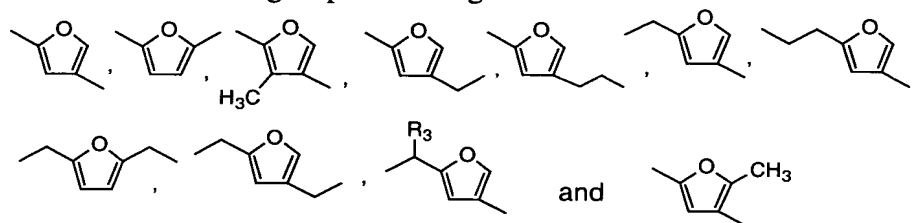


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11. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the cycloalkyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

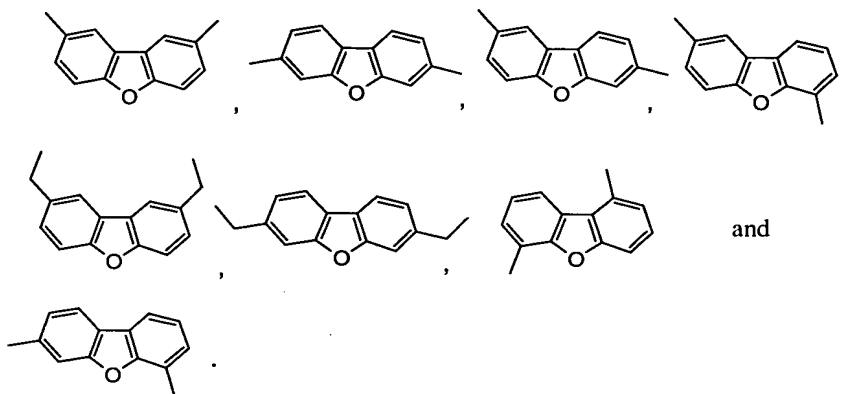


12. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the furanyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



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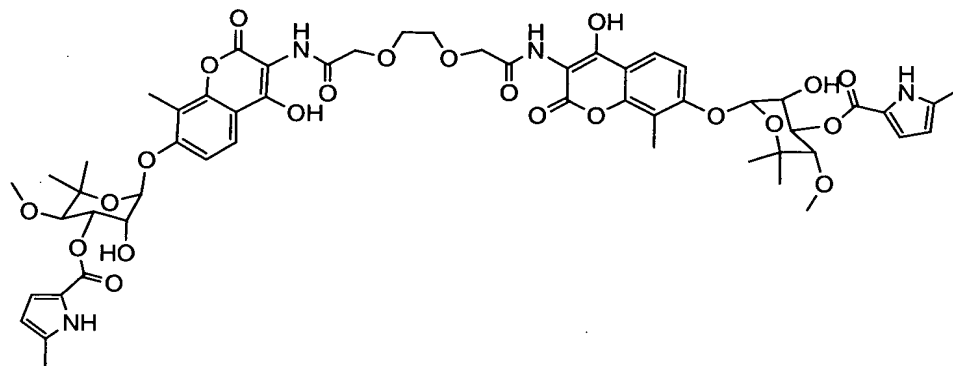
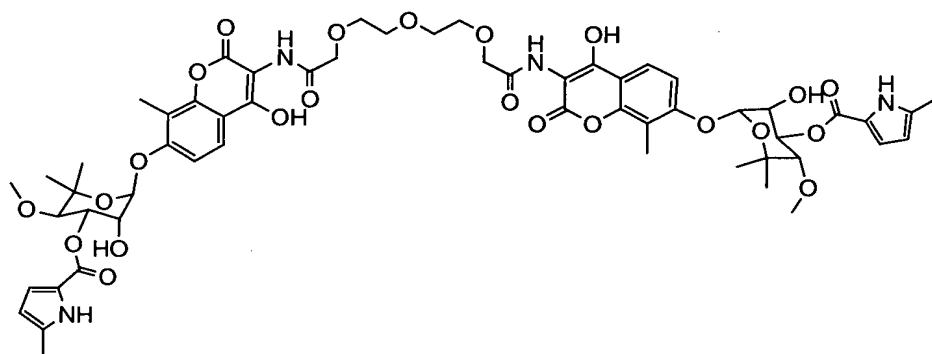
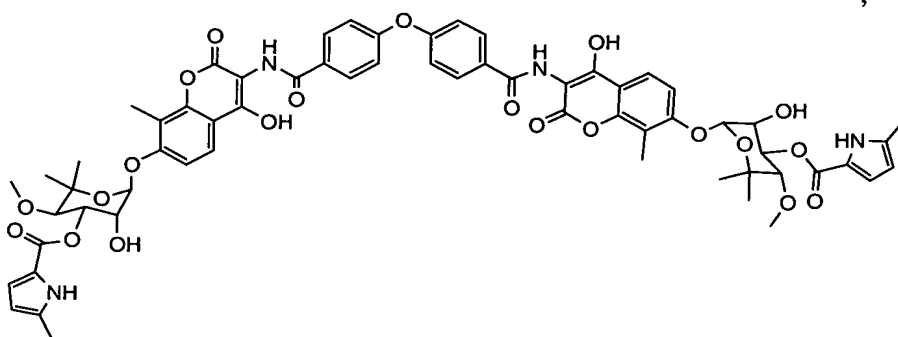
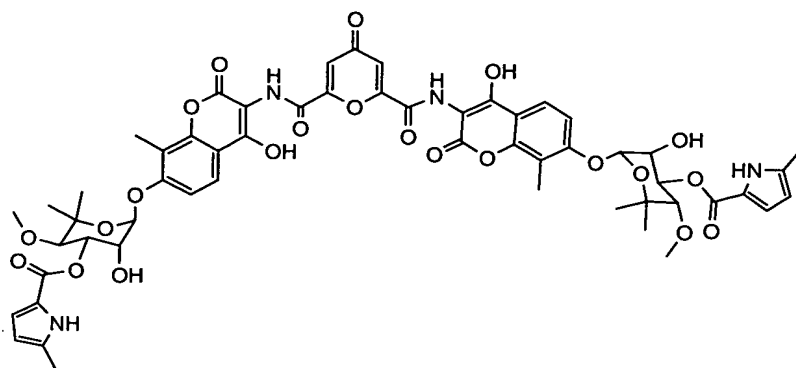
13. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the dibenzofuranyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



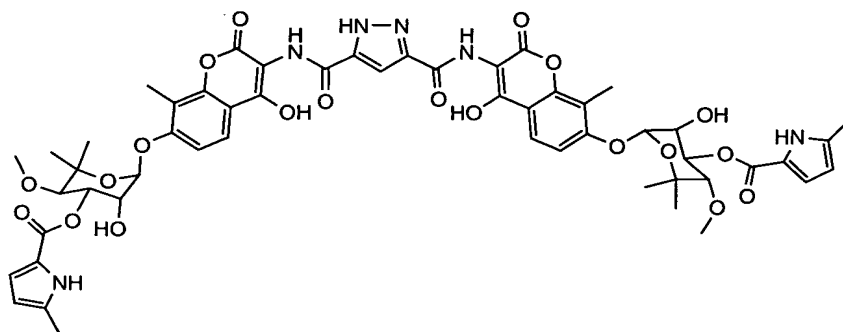
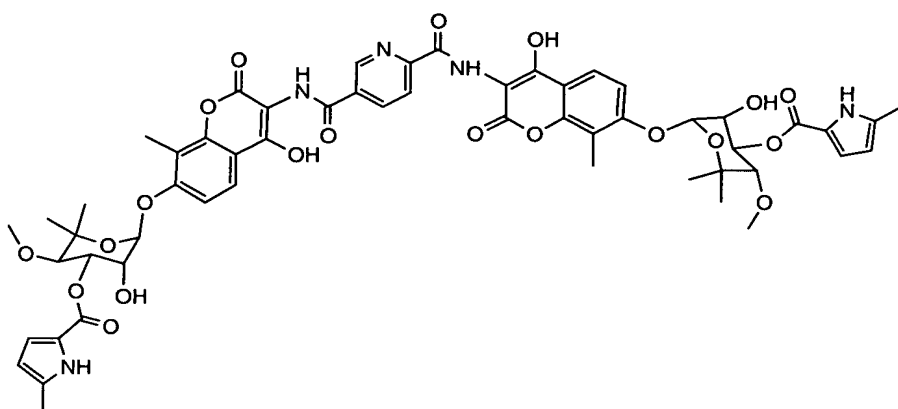
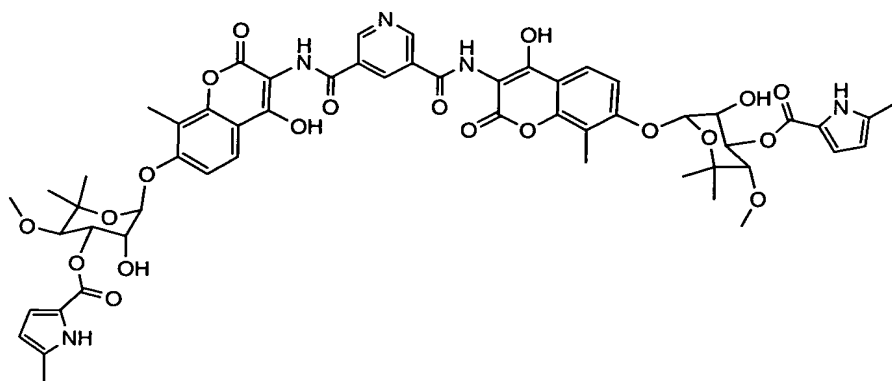
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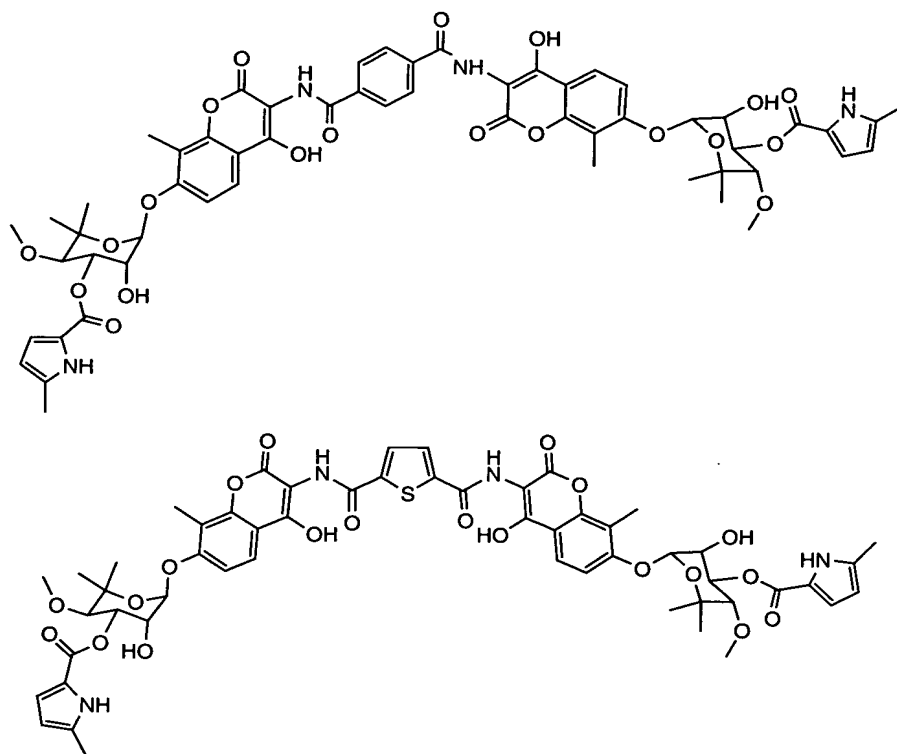
14. A compound selected from the group consisting of

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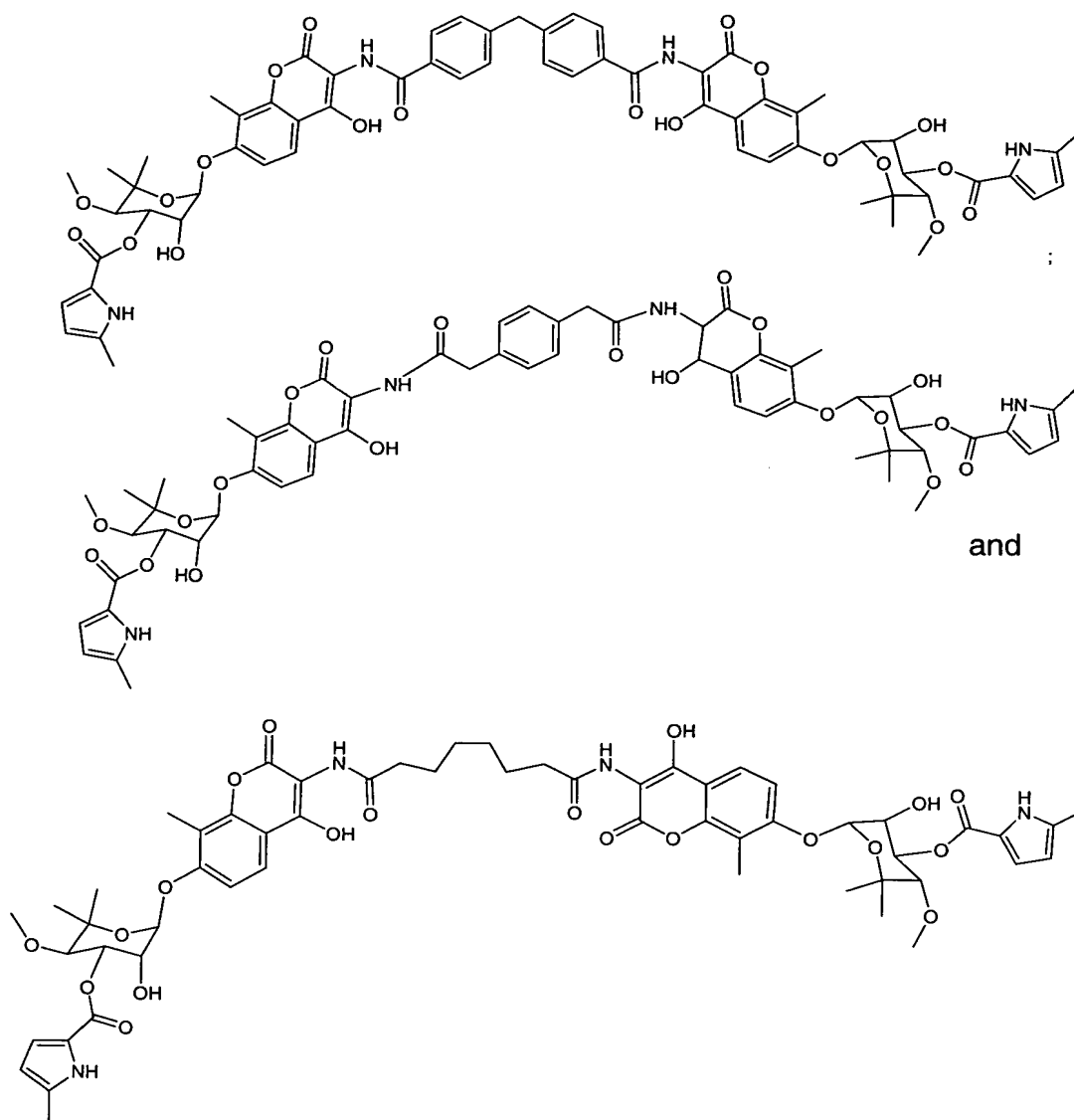


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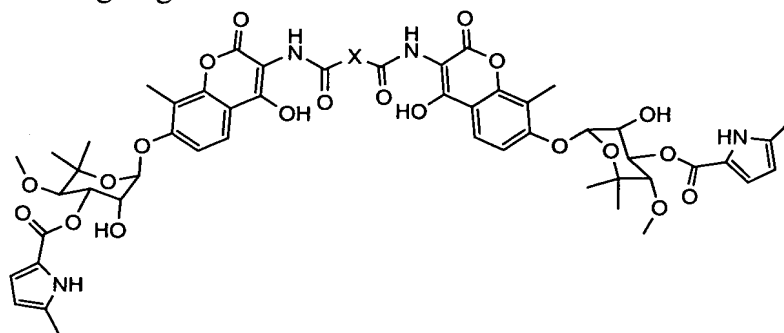




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15. A method of chemically dimerizing chimeric proteins utilizing a coumermycin analog of general formula I:



wherein X is a linking group X is selected from the group consisting of straight, branched and cyclic alkyl, aryl, diaryl, heteroaryl, said alkyl, aryl, diaryl and heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups of C₁₋₆ alkyl or NH₂, alkyl with 1-3 heteroatoms in the chain, and a combination of alkyl, aryl and/or heteroaryl substituents.

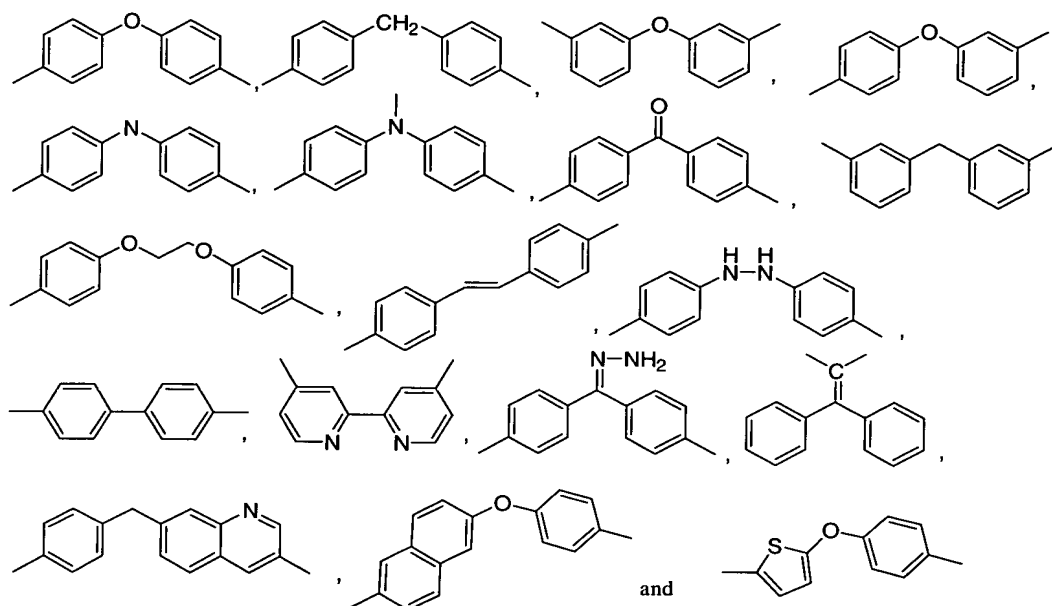
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is selected from the group consisting of

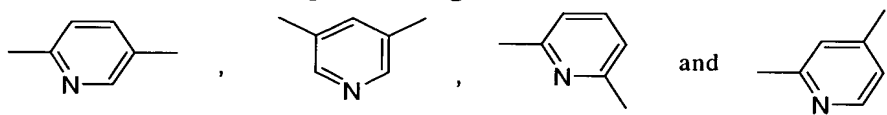


wherein R₃ is H or CH₃.

is selected from the group consisting of



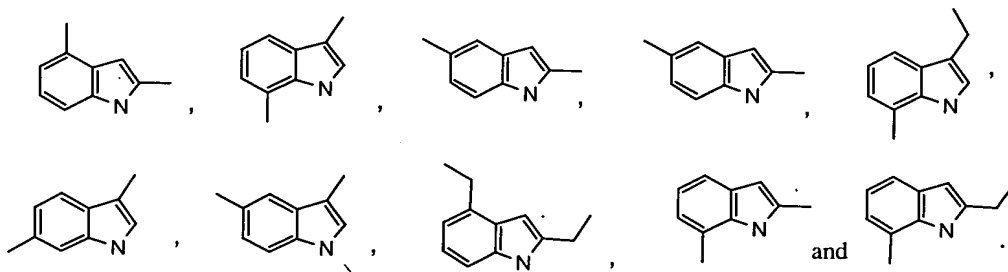
19. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the pyridine moiety is selected from the group consisting of



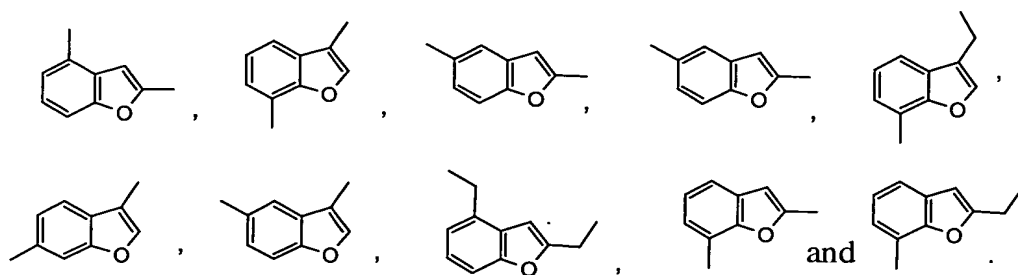
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20. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the straight chain alkyl moiety contains from about one and about eighteen carbon atoms.

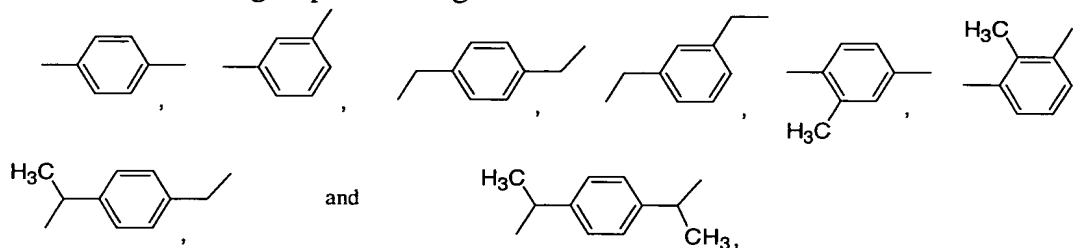
21. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the indolyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



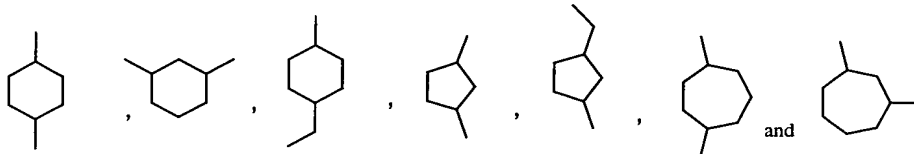
22. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the benzofuranyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



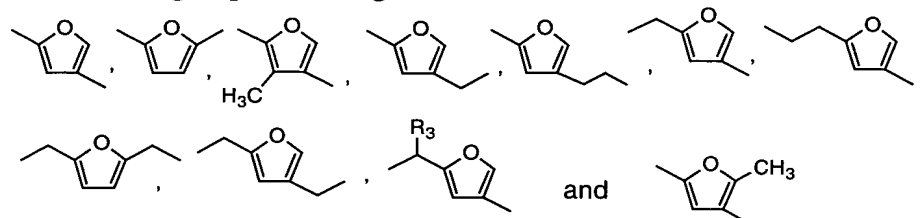
23. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the phenyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



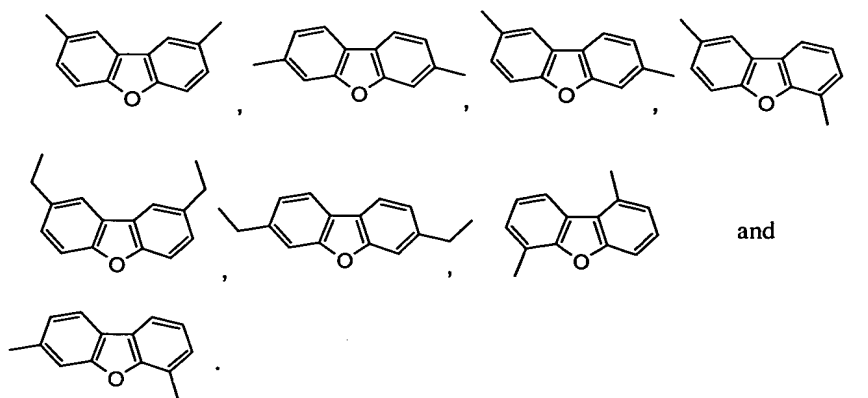
24. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the cycloalkyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



25. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the furanyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

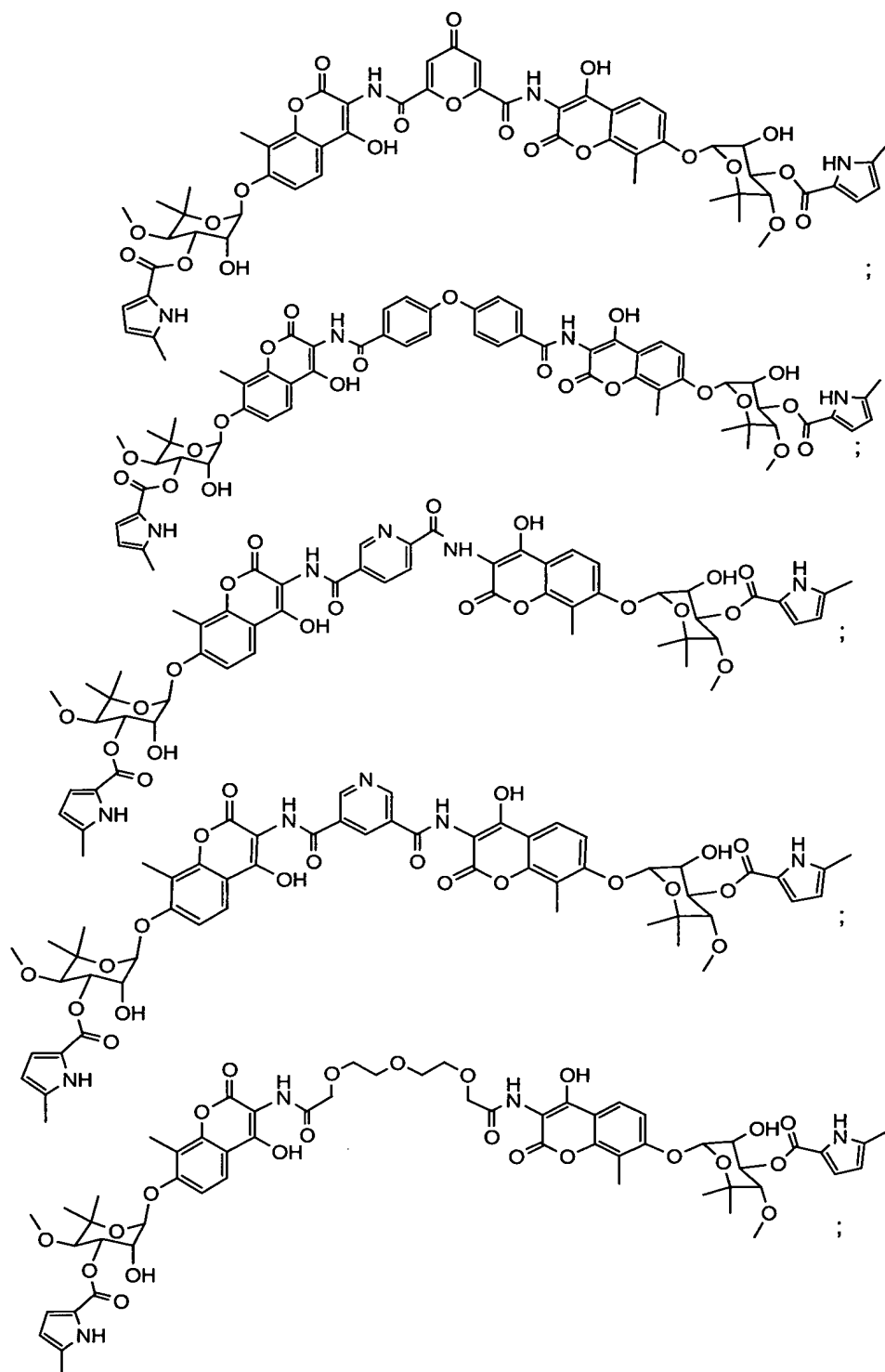


26. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the dibenzofuranyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

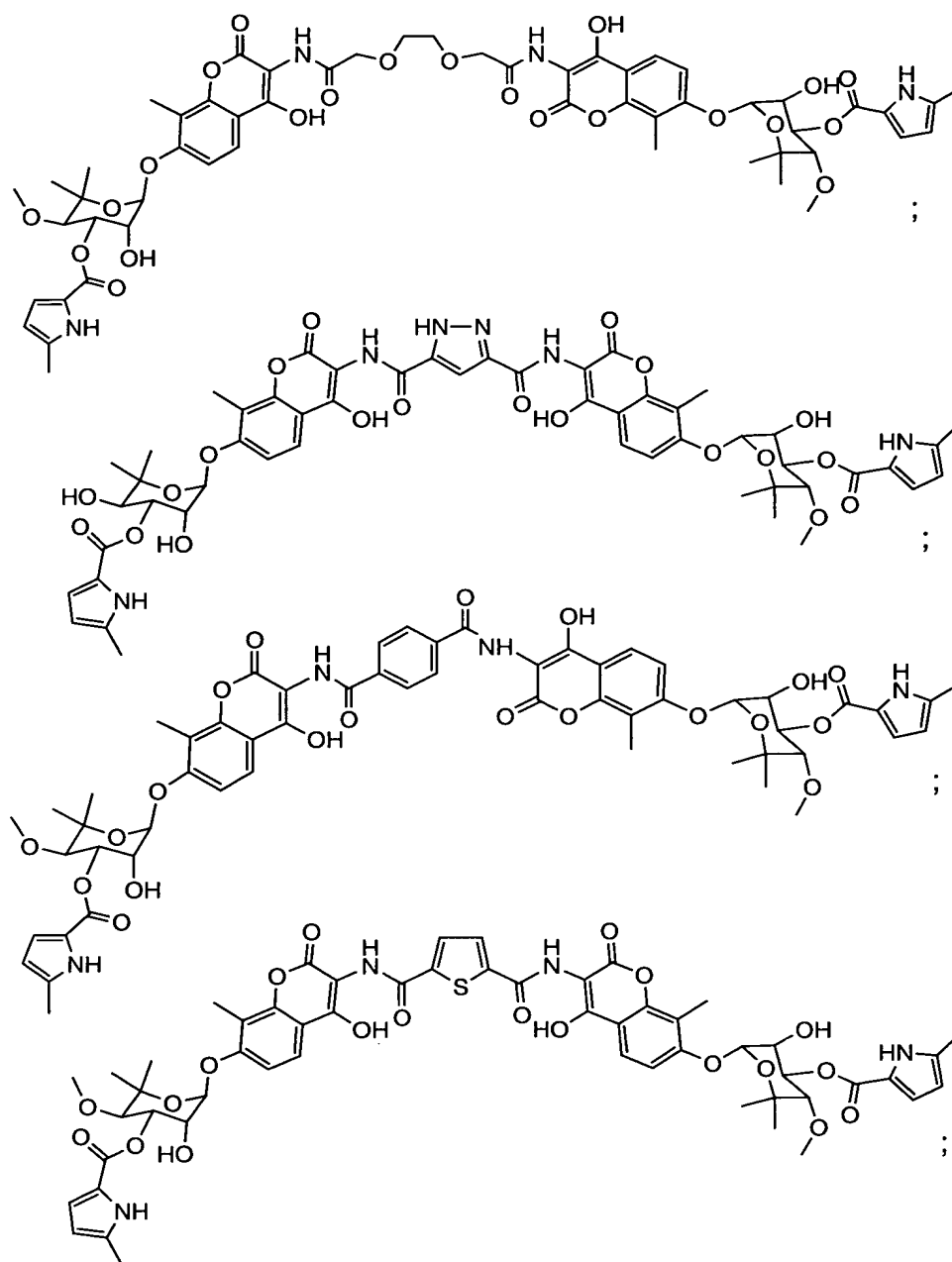


27. A coumermycin analog suitable for use as a chemical dimerizer of chimeric proteins, wherein the analog is selected from the group consisting of

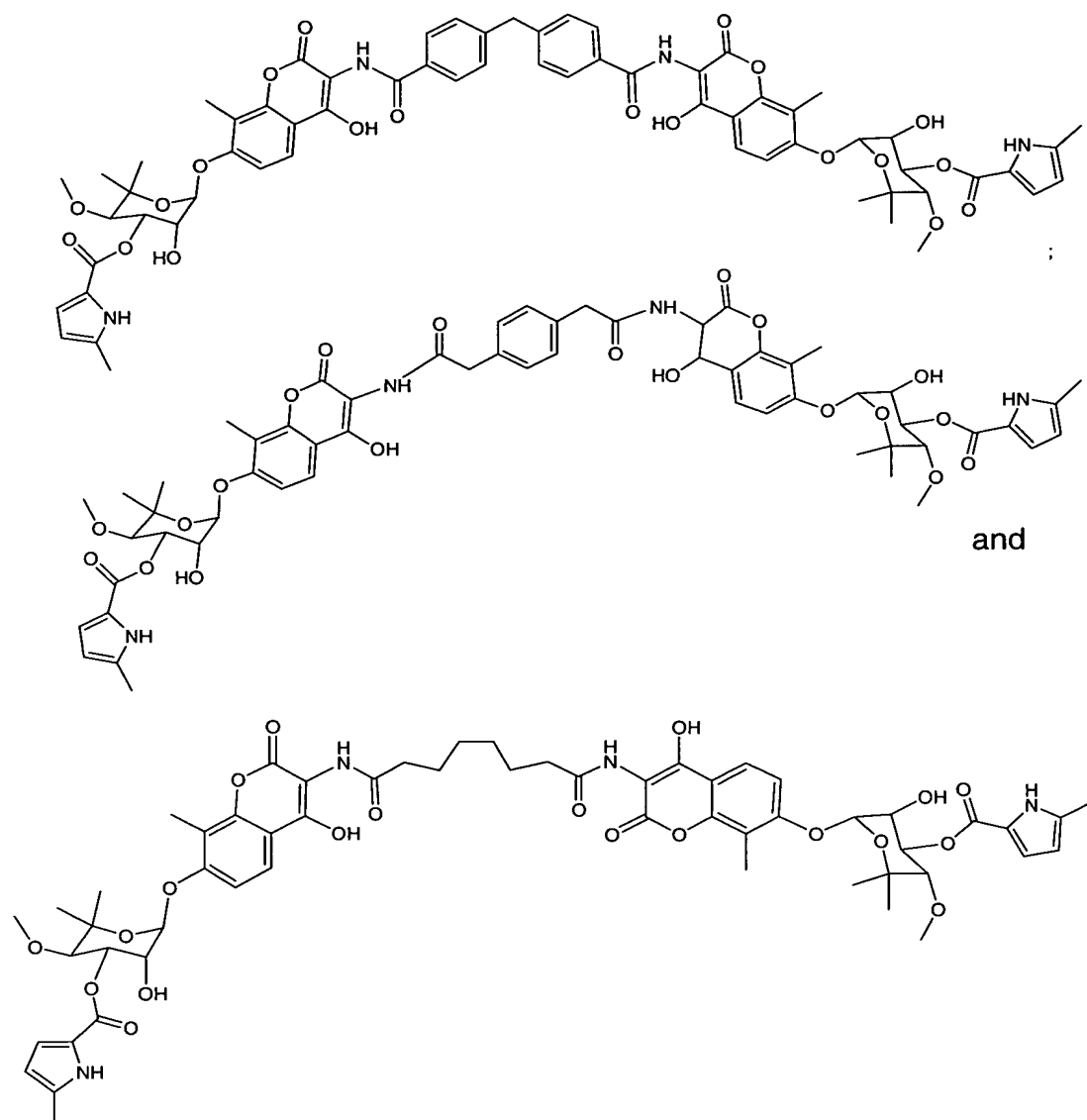
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28. A composition useful for promoting the dimerization of chimeric signaling, intracellular proteins comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of formula I.
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